

**CHILD ABDUCTION
FIRST RESPONDING OFFICER CHECKLIST**

RESPOND

RESPOND to ANY disappearance of a child as an **Abduction Case until further information is developed.** CHILD ABDUCTION BY A FAMILY MEMBER **must be treated as an urgent missing child investigation.** ALWAYS consider the child **endangered until proven otherwise.**

WITHOUT DELAY BROADCAST SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION TO: All police communication channels, other patrol officers, other law enforcement agencies, and consider AMBER ALERT.

**GATHER DATA RELEVANT TO THE INITIAL
RESPONSE: interview reporting party & witnesses**

- ☐ Ensure child is missing
- ☐ Description of child
- ☐ Circumstances of disappearance
- ☐ Description of alleged perpetrator (if known)
- ☐ Description of vehicle
- ☐ Initial determination of abduction type
- ☐ Risk assessment (see risk assessment checklist)

YOU MUST IMMEDIATELY

- ☐ Establish and secure the crime scene
- ☐ Additional personnel and supervision

NOTIFY

- ☐ Additional personnel and supervision
- ☐ Highway Patrol

ENTER INFORMATION INTO

The Department of Justice Missing Person System (MUPS/NCIC)

GATHER ADDITIONAL INVESTIGATIVE DATA

- ☐ Photograph & other identifying data
- ☐ Re: child (and abductor-suspect, if known)
- ☐ Detailed family history
- ☐ Locations of other family members
- ☐ School, health and other info re: child
- ☐ Possible destinations

PRIOR TO LEAVING THE SCENE ADVISE FAMILY

- ☐ How to access victim witness services
- ☐ Can offer DNA if child is missing 30 days

IF APPROPRIATE, NOTIFY THE:

- ☐ District Attorney's Family Child Abduction Unit
- ☐ Local office of the FBI
- ☐ Media
- ☐ Amber Alert
- ☐ National Center For Missing & Exploited Children
- ☐ Missing children nonprofit organizations

CONTACTS AND RESOURCES

DOJ Missing & Unidentified
Persons Unit..... (916) 227-3290

DOJ Missing Children Hotline (800) 222-FIND
(3463)

California Highway Patrol **or**
nearest CHP Communications (800) TELL-CHP
Center..... (835-5247)

FBI

Los Angeles (310) 996-5000
Sacramento (916) 481-9110
San Diego (858) 565-1255
San Francisco..... (415) 553-7400

National Center for Missing &
Exploited Children..... (800) 843-5678

Missing Children Organizations:

District Attorney's Child Abduction Unit

Sponsored by

The California Child Abduction Task Force
and
The Governor's Office of Emergency Services
Children's Section
(916) 323-7449

This checklist is a suggested guide, but is not all-inclusive.
Local jurisdictions may have protocols with varying requirements.

**CHILD ABDUCTION & RISK OF DANGER TO
CHILD ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST**

**ALWAYS consider the child endangered until
proven otherwise.**

ABDUCTOR-SUSPECT INFORMATION

- ☐ Prior threats to abduct child
- ☐ Prior abductions and/or prior concealments
- ☐ Has strong family ties in other states or countries
- ☐ Unwed parents
- ☐ Criminal history
- ☐ Has a weapon/access to a weapon
- ☐ Has/is threatening suicide
- ☐ Child taken without any personal items
- ☐ Recently been fired from employment
- ☐ Recently quit employment
- ☐ Made verbal threats to harm custodian/child
- ☐ Major deviation from normal behavior pattern
- ☐ Prior incidence of violence
- ☐ History of Domestic Violence/Child Abuse
- ☐ Chronic alcoholism/drug use
- ☐ Currently Under the Influence
- ☐ Mental illness
- ☐ Registered sex offender
- ☐ History of Stalking
- ☐ History of violent criminal acts
- ☐ Custody battle/recent divorce or separation
- ☐ Potential of International Abduction
- ☐ Has passport & support system outside U.S.
- ☐ Child has current passport
- ☐ Signs of pre-abduction plans to leave the U.S.
- ☐ Cumulative recent "stressors" and/or loss of "control" over personal life or other individuals

MOTHER ABDUCTOR-SUSPECT INFORMATION

(Additional factors common to female caretaker abductors)

- ☐ Allegations of child abuse by male custodian/father
 - ☐ Allegations are supported by mother's family
 - ☐ Child under age six
 - ☐ Recent court hearing/decision regarding custody
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CHILD(REN) INFORMATION

- ☐ Is within at-risk age group
 - ☐ Is preschool age or younger
 - ☐ Knows own address and telephone number
 - ☐ Knows how to dial 911
 - ☐ No or limited English-speaking ability
 - ☐ Acute Serious Health Concern
 - ☐ Chronic Serious Health Concern
 - ☐ Requires Medication
 - ☐ Developmentally Delayed
 - ☐ Physical Disability
 - ☐ Child is Drug Dependent
 - ☐ Potential violence or sexual abuse of victim
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CULTURAL CONSIDERATIONS

- ☐ Potential "Honor Killing"
 - ☐ Potential unwilling victim of "Marriage Abduction"
 - ☐ Child seen as rightful property of abducting party
 - ☐ Potential maiming such as, female circumcision
 - ☐ Mixed culture marriage relationship
 - ☐ Parents are members of a religious cult, militia, or other extremist group
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